

Message Text

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ORIGIN MBFR-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166385

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: ROLE OF MBFR WORKING GROUP

REF: (A) USNATO 3827; (B) USNATO 3867

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL IN PARAS 8-10 OF REF (A)

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WITH REGARD TO ROLE OF MBFR WORKING GROUP. PERHAPS

RELINQUISHMENT OF PREVIOUSLY NEGATIVE US POSITION TOWARD CONTINUATION OF MBFR WORKING GROUP CAN PROVIDE MISSION WITH LEVERAGE TO BRING ABOUT DESIRED OUTCOME, WHERE THE MBFR WORKING GROUP WILL RECEIVE ITS GUIDANCE AND ASSIGNMENTS FROM THE SPC AND WILL REPORT BACK TO IT, MAKING WORKING GROUP OF GREATER PRACTICAL USE.

2. REGARDING REVISED WORK PROGRAM FOR MBFR WORKING GROUP, WE CAN ACCEPT REDRAFT CONTAINED IN REF (B) WITH EXCEPTION OF PARA 3(3). THIS ITEM IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION REGARDING THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE DO NOT SHARE. PURSUING IT WOULD LEAD TO DIVISIVE DEBATE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE JUST AT THE TIME WHEN THE ALLIES ARE ADVANCING THEIR AGREED NEGOTIATING POSITION. THE SUBJECT MATTER GOES FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE MBFR WORKING GROUP AS WE CONCEIVE ITS OPERATIONS AND PURPOSES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PARAS 3(2) AND 3(4) OF REVISED WORK PROGRAM REF (B), WE CONCEDE THAT WORKING GROUP MUST INEVITABLY EXAMINE THESE QUESTIONS, IF ONLY TO REVIEW SACEUR'S ASSESSMENT OF US APRIL PAPER AND TO MAINTAIN COLLECTIVE READINESS TO OFFER TECHNICAL JUDGEMENTS WHEN ASKED TO DO SO. HOWEVER, WE STRESS THAT THE CURRENT ROUND OF POLITICAL DECISIONS SHOULD NOT AWAIT OR DEPEND ON ANY WORKING GROUP REPORT ON THE SUBJECTS OF PARAS 2 AND 4. THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST THAT PARA 2 OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAM BE MODIFIED TO READ "EXAMINE AND REPORT, AS APPROPRIATE."

4. WE ALSO NOTE THAT IN PREPARING THE US APRIL AND JULY PAPERS WE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS ON NATO STRATEGY AND ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF NATO'S NUCLEAR DETERRENT TO THE STRATEGY. IN PARTICULAR, THE PAPERS DELINEATED MILITARY ASYMMETRIES AND MADE PROPOSALS FOR OFFSETTING THEM THROUGH PROVISIONS ON THE SIZE AND METHOD OF REDUCTION AND DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT. WE REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THE CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT THE STRATEGY AS DEFINED IN MC 14/3. ROGERS

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